

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

November 28, 2006

7:30 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

3. Presentation regarding Manchester's Weed & Seed activities.

Mayor Guinta stated prior to the Consent Agenda we are going to have a presentation regarding Manchester's Weed & Seed activities. If Mr. Soucy and company would come forward.

Mr. Tom Colantuono, U. S. Attorney, stated I have the privilege there tonight of introducing the presentation about the Manchester Weed & Seed site. My task was simply to introduce Nicole Rodler the Coordinator but having a microphone I can't resist saying just a couple of words about how much we support the Weed & Seed Program. New Hampshire was recognized as an official site in 2001 as you see there just before I took office but since I've been in office I've made it a priority to be in full support of the Weed & Seed Program. I think it's a tremendous program, it's one of the most successful governmental programs I've seen in all my time in governing here in the State of New Hampshire and there's going to be a lot of information given but I just want to highlight one fact that I think is terrific about Weed & Seed and that is that since Weed and Seed started in the downtown Manchester area crime in the Weed & Seed area has been cut in half in terms of violent part one serious crime and while crime in the rest of the City has grown by about 50% which I think is very significant and juvenile crime has dropped every single year of the Weed & Seed Program so we remain fully committed to it. Many of you know that my Law Enforcement Coordinator at our office Mark Long is a permanent member of the Steering Committee and Helen Fitzgibbon is also attached to that group and she's one of our Assistant United States Attorneys and we couldn't be more proud of the job that's been done here. So, I'm going to turn it over to Nicole Rodler to tell you more about it.

Ms. Nicole Rodler stated good evening and thank you very much for having us here this evening. It's a great honor for me to actually present to you one of Manchester's most unique collaborations that has come to this City and that's Weed & Seed and before I get to start I'd like to actually point out to you some of the individuals in the room that have been with us since the beginning and continue to support us. The departments from the City that have been with us...the Health Department, the Police Department, we have City Planning that has been regularly involved with the strategy as well as many of you Aldermen have been a great support to us including Alderman Lopez who has been with us since the beginning and Dan O'Neil and we'd like to thank you for your support. But, the key people who have been involved in this strategy that make it so unique if you look into who's sitting behind me are the residents and the residents have come from the beginning and have increased in their involvement as this is about them and for them in this City. So, it gives me great honor to be able to actually represent such a large partnership. Weed & Seed received official recognition...Manchester did in 2001. The process, however, started back in 2000. Weed & Seed is a unique collaboration innovative in that it brings together multiple agencies, residents, law enforcement all trying to prevent crime and bring in community revitalization. It's foremost a strategy which is so key to understanding that it's not a program, it's not just a specific agency, it's a collaboration across the City bringing all of these individuals together and pointing out the unmet needs in the community and the best ways to address those. The Department of Justice Community Capacity Development Office found that this was a very successful strategy and had replicated the strategy across the country...331 sites currently exist. Each site is provided with five years of funding, not every site utilizes all five years, some have failed only because the city has not wrapped around that opportunity. Manchester has received all five years, we are now in our fifth year of funding and it's our fifth and final year but that is one million provided over five years to address crime prevention and community revitalization. Manchester is the only site within the State of New Hampshire. Back in 2000 we established the target community based on the unmet needs and the statistics that demonstrated that target area to be sections of Wards 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9...that's not to say that the rest of the City has experienced crime or has unmet needs but that was the greatest unmet area in our community. So, upon official recognition

that became our target area and as many of the Aldermen have stated before in the past that it would be nice to have Weed & Seed in their communities. As you know there are brick walls around the target areas so the strategy has been able to replicate itself throughout the community and effort and as we look at our fifth and final year we've actually now reached over to the west side trying to assist. This strategy which I started in 2000 by pulling together several agencies, departments and community residents gives you an example of the many individuals or agencies that have come to the table. We have several that have started back in 2001 have maintained their support and some have started freshly with us. One example would be the Somali Development Center...as it's grown and continues to grow have recently come to our table and it brings to us that cultural competency piece so that we are aware of what's going on with our refugees and immigrants in our community. It's a great opportunity for law enforcement and service providers to talk directly to the residents in this community to learn what they're seeing first-hand. Based off of what those partners felt was needed in the community we established the strategies goals. These goals were branched across the four component areas addressing crime, cultural awareness, the physical surroundings, the resident empowerment in the community...all based off of assessment and evaluation with resident input from the beginning. Each one of these is addressed by those four component areas and those component areas break both into your weeding and your seeding components and it's not a gardening analogy, it's weeding out crime and seeding in community involvement. The weeding portion of the strategy breaks into both law enforcement and community policing...that's addressing weeding out criminals in the target community and then seeding in community involvement and hope. Law enforcement and community policing...one-on-one with the aspect that has been brought by the residents, what they want to see in their community and what they're needing to be addressed. It's an opportunity for residents to talk directly to law enforcement and be able to say this is what we're seeing in the community. Where law enforcement might have the statistics to say that they might see certain things it gives them an opportunity to hear directly from the residents and even in our watch groups we don't have an opportunity all the time to hear there and this has been a great partnership for that opportunity. Neighborhood restoration, prevention and intervention and treatment bring the residents to the table with service providers and City departments in building back up this community and that has been a great opportunity for

them to see the changes in their community. One of the unique aspects to the strategy is providing what is called a “Safe Haven”. Every site upon official recognition needs to designate a safe haven...that is a requirement...one safe haven within a community which is a multi-service center reaching multiple ages providing resources and a secure facility for the residents in the community to meet and utilize. Manchester felt it would be a great opportunity to develop three safe havens. Our three safe havens currently are The Salvation Army, the Manchester police Athletic League and Manchester Community Resource Center. Each of them addressing resources and providing services to the community...multiple ages, multiple services and being utilized on a regular basis from meetings to educational facilities to athletic opportunities that didn’t naturally exist. The success of the collaboration can be stated in the direct and indirect return that has been seen within this community over the last five years. Since 2001 when we started to received our funding...the funding actually kicked in in 2002 we have had a financial return. The federal government Department of Justice has invested in Manchester itself at this point one million in weeding out criminal behavior and seeding in this hope. The Weed & Seed partners were able to contribute to that effort \$465,000 and that’s between staff time dedicated toward a strategy guided in a specific area towards a focused community. Efforts have been targeted as well as resources within this community. This has grown five fold since the beginning. If you noticed our partner list in the beginning it has grown as well. We have over 40 agencies sitting at the table currently, we have City departments and law enforcement across the state and residents that are too numerous at this point to count as our watch groups have increased. At this point, our watch groups have increased at least three fold...we started the summer with about 10 active watch groups and we have over 31 that are looking at being active and that all comes back to the Weed & Seed table. Officer Dana Langton is the Weed & Seed Officer...he goes and represents all of the watch groups at the table. In this current fiscal year partners were able to state that over \$2.5 million was brought into the community because of this partnership and collaboration. The direct return on investment when you look across the four component areas...I’ll break that up for you...looking at your goals and looking at what we have been able to address we were able to establish our goals based off of the community input as we stated. Each goal we have been gathering information and tangible outcomes. The domestic violence response in the community...we were able to provide overtime details

to the Police Department and several areas...to the domestic violence details, prostitution details, as well as special investigations and also we were able to include in that this coming year a graffiti detail and we're working on gang details. As you can see the numbers we have made a difference in this community with 1,300 offenders being arrested, 456 were within the Weed & Seed community. The prostitution details that you see quite frequently and now have actually been picked up across the department originally was started by regency funding. We were successful in making arrests of 78 "Johns" and 33 prostitutes...that's a great opportunity for this community to clean the streets, to make them safer for the residents. Juvenile crime has decreased since 2002 when we started measuring our statistics a 39% decrease...that is in part by the collaboration of Weed & Seed and other partners. We have several opportunities at the table to create and have created Weed & Seed Youth Opportunities but as well based on conversations around the table partners are able to carry on their services and have an effect on this number and the special Investigations Unit and the NH Drug Task Force which are connected to Weed & Seed as well as Project Safe Neighborhood and several other strategies that law enforcement utilize carry on the success. Community Policing which is the key piece of bringing the residents and the Police Department together as well has seen several successes. As I mentioned the Watch Groups have increased and we are able to bring the comments and the feedback from the residents directly to the partners so not only is law enforcement hearing what the partners need, the residents need but service providers are able to now start to institute new programs within their organizations that will address resident needs. We have been able to provide cultural diversity training, personal safety clinics and we have even tried to tackle the Graffiti Task Force...we are looking city wide to address this issue and we have brought partners to the table to look across the City not just within the Weed & Seed community but across the city to address what hopefully will start to prevent graffiti in the City. When you looking at the seeding portions of the strategy the successes that we have seen as well are tangible and that Saturday Teen Night was developed off of the need in the community that there was nothing for teens to do on the weekends. We have several service providers that were able to provide weekly activities but when it came to Saturdays that was a huge deficit in our community so partners gathered together and formulated what is known as Weed & Seed's Saturday Teen Night hosted every Saturday night during the school year. We have been able to see over

1,200 youth (unduplicated) attend Saturday Teen Nights and that's not just within the Weed & Seed target community. We have teens coming from the west side and also other states so when they're visiting family members they're attending Teen Night which is a great opportunity for our youth to have positive role models around them in a safe and secure environment. The Neighborhood Block Party, which several of you have attended has as well seen success. This is an opportunity for us to also put out our actual assessment tool. We provide an opportunity for everyone to see the quality of life evaluation survey. We have had in the past over 700 participants at our Block Party...this year was about 500. It's a great opportunity for everyone to gather and celebrate the success of Weed & Seed and the Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign as well brought forward by the community residents that there is a need in this community to discuss what the perspective is of domestic violence and we were able to provide funding to the YWCA to promote this campaign and to do a target community wide forum. They held six forums and they were able to both address the perspective and the needs looking at what the gaps were in the community so now they can go forward and start to apply for funding to actually meet those unmet needs.

Neighborhood Restoration has seen several very visible outcomes. If you look around the community...I happened to be driving in this morning which was a prime example...on garbage pickup days you can see the Weed & Seed totes throughout the community...a very small tangible outcome but yet very effective. As well we were able to provide HUD safety training so we have worked with our low-income federal and state housing providing trainings to both the landlords and the residents. We as well have worked with the community on developing community gardens, we have had safety trainings and one of our large annual events is the cemetery cleanup...restoration wraps around that cemetery with pride because that's in the target community and it's a place that someday we hope would be a haven for families to gather and enjoy. One of the largest direct returns that we have seen is the reduction in crime. Obviously, the weeding portion is addressing that. In part Weed & Seed collaboration and other strategies in the City we have seen within this target community a reduction in half the crime. This is across that target community of Wards, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9. The indirect return on Weed & Seed has been numerous. We narrowed it down to three but if you were at the table that we discussed what actually partners have seen across Weed & Seed it was enormous. Unfortunately, you can't put anything tangible to it but you can see it

and you can feel it and partners have said this is by far a very unique dialogue that occurs. It gives an opportunity for law enforcement, City departments, service providers that opportunity directly relating to the residents of this community. There are no other collaborations in the City that put both residents and stakeholders together on a regular basis. This empowers the residents to have a voice and they are key in making the decisions at this table...where the funding will go towards and what the unmet needs are in this community that should be addressed. The service providers are able to...like I mentioned before...start to look at what unmet needs are in the community are and develop their services based around the feedback coming directly from the residents...they're clientele and the City departments as well have been able to pull this information in. A prime example is right now the Planning Department is working one-on-one with our Restoration Committee in working on the "Hollow" which gives us a great opportunity to hear what the residents are seeing in the "Hollow" and create motivation in helping the Planning Department to create a neighborhood that the residents have ownership of. As I mentioned we are approaching the end of our funding. We are in our fifth and final year...our funding goes from October 1st to September 30th. We are looking at a partnership that has been very successful in addressing this community's needs and the partnership met over the past couple of months to bring forward specific recommendations to the City. The first one would be to formalize a permanent mechanism within City government making ownership of strategy the City's...providing the law enforcement, residents and community leaders to come together on a regular routine manner to be able to discuss these concerns...empowering the residents to have their voice. Sustaining both the Coordinator's position and the Weed & Seed Police Officer's position within the City is key to the strategy as it gives you a coordinated position that is able to keep in contact with all of the partners on a regular basis. Being able to sustain and expand the Teen Night is very key to partners at this table. They have seen the success of Teen Night and other collaborations around the table based around this conversation and they have asked that Teen Night continue on because it is still providing that positive role model to teens on a regular basis, a safe and secure environment every Saturday night. And, as we've increased busing to the west side we're increasing our numbers of west side teens as well. So, it's going across the City. Maintaining an evaluation of the process is very key...holding all of us responsible to the goals and the objectives that we set forward giving

us measurable outcomes and being able to demonstrate the improvements that we are making in the quality of life for the City of Manchester. As I mentioned we've received a million dollars from the federal government to sustain us over five years. We are looking at our next year with \$175,000 to secure Weed & Seed sustainability within the City. And, that's Weed & Seed in a nutshell.

Alderman Thibault stated one thing that is very interesting to me as I see this and maybe it answers some of the questions that we've had on the west side. I noticed that your Weed & Seed Strategy Safe Havens are all on the east side. Let's remember that the west side is also part of this City. Why is it that they couldn't have been a pilot program on the west side rather than three on the east side?

Mr. Rodler stated it's a very good question.

Alderman Thibault stated I would think that that's something that this Board should look into as they're funding this that the west side is part of the City of Manchester.

Mr. Rodler stated and we would very much like to include the west side and as we have looked as partners onto the west side we currently have one partner that sits at the table that provides services and that's Girls, Inc. So, looking at a facility that could house and be able to service multiple ages, multiple services.

Alderman Thibault stated I would just like to say that it would seem to me that this Board or the City of Manchester or the School Board should probably make available one school on the west side for activities in the evening. What would this cost the City...\$15,000-20,000 to have a part-time man there three or four hours a night? We talk about the west side problems well you have had all of the services on the east side...that's why the west side has been left alone and the problem has been able to prosper. I think that it's time that this City or the School Board to probably have some school on the west side maybe in the center of the west side open in the evening say from six o'clock to nine o'clock at night and I think you'd see a

major decrease in crime and truancy on the west side as far as the kids are concerned. So, I would hope that this Board would take this into consideration and think about it.

Alderman Lopez stated I've been involved with this from the beginning when Mark Long and the Police Department started this program in the City of Manchester. I have never seen a group of people work together for the betterment of the City of Manchester. We received everything that we need in the City of Manchester...the Neighborhood Watches, the Neighborhood Cleanups...we have Community Policing that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen have always talked about. This is a major program that has tremendously helped guide us through rough times and the people around the table that sit there when they meet work together. I can tell you that it does empower the residents. So, I want to commend the Police Department for the officers that go and sit at those meetings and provide the information to them as well as the residents providing information to the officers in order to solve some of the crimes. I think, as you looked at the statistics I was wondering if we could have a little bit more conversation on statistics because I think it's important with what we're striving for in the City of Manchester. It's a successful program but I agree with Alderman Thibault about the west side. This is going to be a tremendous help for everything that everybody is trying to do with regarding crime. So, with that if the police would like to comment on it.

Ms. Rodler stated if we can turn it one I can put the statistics back up for you if you'd like to.

Alderman Lopez stated we have it...it's up to you. If we could have the Police tell us what the process is and what goes on, how they weed out the bad guys, everything else and I think that's important.

Lt. Rick Reilly stated as far as the strategy is concerned again I am going to echo what Nicole had said earlier...this is a unique program and that it allows the community members to come to the Steering Committee and have a direct hands-on role in how we conduct enforcement in their communities as opposed to us just driving programs into their community without their consultation and this allows that to occur. I'm going to try to

answer your question if I heard it correctly. The process is normally in terms of quality of life issues, which we try to drive down a variety of crime in the community. As we recognize a problem we bring it before the Steering Committee and the community gets to have a say in how we operate. If the Police Department recognizes a growing concern in the Weed & Seed community that can bring it before the Steering Committee and then there's an open discussion between community leaders, community members and the nature of the problem and then we can come up with the strategy or solution to address that issue. Some of our flagship programs have been to address the graffiti issue, domestic violence issues as well as prostitution. What this allows the Police Department to do is to conduct operations that the general staffing cannot produce. For example, to run a prostitute operation it requires six officers. On a given shift it's really difficult to dedicate personnel for that specific task for that specific operation that the community has spoken about and as a result we're able to attack that problem quite effectively in a focused fashion. What we brought here today is an interest in expanding that to the west side and that's very much our interest. If I could address that particular issues. In the last five years we were required to focus our efforts in a specific designated area by the federal government and that was driven by statistics...crimes rates and so forth and at the time this program was born the west side didn't have those statistics to support it and now we're faced with competing with communities all over the country not just in other communities in the state or even New England but all over the country and you would imagine that there are some other communities that are probably in greater need than the west side for this money and it is limited, it's very competitive. But, with this program as we move into year six we can make this program become our own. We can evolve it to make it fit Manchester without federal interference...on the west side and address issues over there just as we could on the east side. But, as the stats have shown we've been very effective with driving the numbers down and I would suggest that subjectively just driving through the community you can see dramatic improvements. One of the statistics that I'm most familiar with is I'm the Commander of the Juvenile Unit...is driving juvenile crime down or delinquency rates down and right now we're projected to have a 15% reduction in the delinquency rates in Manchester...talking about the whole City not just the Weed & Seed area and that's due in part to many of the partners that you saw on that slide to include the Police Department...the Boy's and Girl's

Club, the Salvation Army, the Manchester Police Athletic League and the Project Safe Neighborhood's program. So, this in combination with many others is driving those crime rates and the juvenile rates are one example of those. So, I hope I've answered your questions, Sir.

Alderman Lopez stated yes it does and the final comment I'd make, your Honor, I would hope that this program goes to your office for next year and the CIP for the simple reason that a successful such as this if it's the last year of funding and for planning purposes the people that do this everyday are going to have to know what direction to go into as we move forward. Surely they have been a great success in the City of Manchester and I would hope that we would continue because every Aldermen on this Board has asked for Community Policing to clean up neighborhoods and such so I would hope that you would consider this in your budget.

Alderman Osborne stated I have a question regarding graffiti. I had a big interest in that. I was doing quite a bit with it for a while but I felt like I was all alone doing it. We had some signs made up and we had Parks and Recreation (Ron Ludwig) post these signs in different areas of the parks and schools, etc. and I think it worked pretty well and I also had the Superintendent of Schools send correspondence to every school in the City, to every student in the City letting them know what consequences are for doing such a thing. So, I'd like to know where you're going with it and what's been done and has anybody been arrested doing it or whatever. It's been quite quiet with graffiti.

Lt. Reilly stated from the weeding perspective of the Weed & Seed Program Sgt. Kincaid of the Community Policing Unit brought this issue before the Steering Committee in the fashion that I had earlier described in my commentary and it's not only a graffiti issue but it also grows into a gang issue...that's something that we wanted to keep an eye on over the summer months. Kevin brought that to the Steering Committee and it was decided that it needed some attention because of the voice of not only the Police but more importantly the community members and what was agreed upon is that we would divert some of the monies used for the prostitution effort to the graffiti effort and as a result Sgt. Kincaid put together a

program to survey areas in the City that have been victimized or suspected to be victimized for graffiti as well as keeping areas under close attention where activity is growing in terms of potential gang like behavior and we've been very successful in that. As a result of that program 18 arrests were made as well as 23 field cards. Now, the 18 arrests may not necessarily...Sgt. Kincaid would be able to answer this specifically but the 18 arrests may not only be for an act of graffiti or criminal mischievous but it may also be another crime which they had come upon in the course of this action taken by the Police under the guidance and instance of the community members at Steering. As far as the seeding perspective is concerned that is the weeding perspective...our effort. I describe it as weeding. Police go in there and we weed out the bad element, the bad guys. Seeding are social services that come in behind it to try to prevent the weed from growing back to require us from going back into the community to perform the operation again and what you have described by talking to the schools and addressing it at the student level is an exceptional example of seeding in an attempt to educate the students in the City about the repercussions of graffiti. We also educate the children about graffiti as well as at the Salvation Army and I can speak for sure at the Manchester Police Athletic League for which I am associated with...we discuss it with our kids that participate in those programs as well. So, that's the seeding component that we participate in.

Alderman Osborne asked has anybody been arrested specifically for graffiti?

Lt. Reilly replied yes they have. I don't have the number in front of me but yes they were arrested. The charge isn't graffiti, the charge is criminal mischievous. There really is no crime called graffiti it's ultimately criminal mischievous...damaging property.

Alderman Osborne stated it's a thousand dollars or more...we're talking this could be a Class B felony.

Lt. Reilly stated it could be yes.

Alderman Osborne asked whatever became of this arrest or arrests?

Lt. Reilly replied I don't know what happened I'd be guessing and I don't want to mislead you.

Alderman Osborne stated it's got to work both ways...like you say we've got to start from the weed and then the seed and so on and so forth but when I was doing it a couple of years ago I felt like I was all alone doing this. It was a big thing with me because I got sick of looking at all this stuff all over the bridges and stop signs so I tried to do a lot on my own by making up these signs and coming up with the ideas of the schools...I think we have to start with the schools and as the kids grow up they understand a little bit there and I haven't heard a thing from it so I'm just trying to get some information on this.

Lt. Reilly stated I can't speak to what happens with the graffiti suspects in terms of what the decision was by the court. We'll continue this effort and we'll obviously continue to discuss it at the Steering Committee level and try to come up with a strategy at which we can address it. The issue is very much in the forefront of our minds. We've committed operations to it, we've committed personnel to it and we will continue to do so.

Alderman Osborne stated it's really not a quality of life looking at all of that stuff in the wards...that's what starts it all. You see that all over the place.

Mayor Guinta stated let's see if at the next Public Safety and Traffic Committee meeting we can just present some updated stats and the Committee can be properly briefed.

Ms. Rodler stated we can also share with you as well the other efforts on the seeding side where we've been working with the YMCA Tap Program and we're also working currently on a mural project.

Alderman DeVries stated Nicole I have a couple of questions for you. You had noted that your fiscal year runs October 1st through September 30th...the \$175,000 that you've indicated for funding to sustain the program after the fifth year ends next September

30th...that is one of your entire fiscal years so if we overlay that into our fiscal year...we need three-quarters of that amount in order to sustain it through our next budget year.

Ms. Rodler stated we calculated the nine months of the budgets.

Alderman DeVries stated so that is a nine-month figure.

Ms. Rodler stated yes.

Alderman DeVries asked are you anticipating looking at any grant opportunities to expand in your fund portions of this program other than the Weed & Seed grant that you previously had?

Ms. Rodler replied we have been in discussion about different grant opportunities as well as grant opportunities for other aspects of the strategy. The coordinator and police officer's position we were hoping for sustainability in the City system. As sites across the country have found that when the City adopts the strategy into sustainability it's long-term.

Alderman DeVries stated if I could follow-up because I guess where I was headed would be if there were any grants that you might be entering into for the future would we be able to use the dollars in the budget as a local match component for those grants?

Ms. Rodler replied yes.

Alderman DeVries stated and obviously don't need the feedback from it tonight other than to plant the seed with you.

Ms. Rodler stated yes we're always looking to improve the City on a whole.

Alderman Roy stated I greatly appreciate...I have a few questions but I'll start with a thank you. It's very nice to see prevention and rehabilitation. I'm one that sits up here and talks

about solid waste and toters and what you do for the neighborhoods is fantastic. That being said I think the Weed & Seed Program is the best \$20,000 a month we could ever spend. But, my concerns are and anyone can answer this will there be any continued programs with federal funding that will take the place of this or if we self-fund this are other programs coming in that will also help us with future endeavors...is the first question.

Ms. Rodler replied if I can address that first. As a Weed & Seed graduated site it provides us opportunities for other federal dollars. Many opportunities that current partners are actually able to utilize. When you are a designated Weed & Seed site across the country it provides you extra points in your federal applications and past our fifth year we achieve graduated site status...not every site across the country does achieve that but we've been so successful in our collaboration that they have already insured us that we're heading in that direction. It would allow us to tap into both U.S. Attorney's opportunities where they can look at funding, we can look at other federal funding that's available and that would also be able to open up the doors of other grant applications for the Weed & Seed strategy. Does that answer that question?

Alderman Roy replied yes very much so and then you do, I believe, have this Board's support to back you in any funding you go after. The second part is possibly for our Public Safety meeting if the new overlay of the east/west, if I believe Greg Murphy put the statistics together could tell us the all other Manchester...seems to be a very large category and I'd like to see what the new zone would encompass if it would shift most of that into the new east/west zone or would that still have a lot of other crime outside of that?

Ms. Rodler stated we do actually have crime maps available.

Alderman Roy stated if that could get forwarded to the Committee that would be great.

Ms. Rodler stated what we did we kept the original boundaries when we received official recognition we had to pay for the site that we were watching.

Alderman Roy stated my very last thing. It's my understanding that a lot of the Neighborhood Watch groups are being charged for using schools in their neighborhoods. Is that accurate? Am I understanding that from constituents correctly?

Ms. Rodler replied sadly that has been a barrier that we ran into actually. On the west side we were trying to have a west side meeting and we were able to have some strings pulled thanks to the Alderman and the School Board that they were able to hold the meeting within the school department but there was a lot of paperwork to have one meeting and that's what the Weed & Seed officer's running into.

Alderman Roy stated at least from my Aldermanic standpoint would ask that either the Clerk or the Mayor's office reach out to the School Board and let them know that Community Policing is a community effort and they're here with us and we need their help as well.

Ms. Rodler stated the Weed & Seed officer is not here to say thank you but I say thank you on his behalf.

Alderman Pinard stated I met Nicole and I had her on my program at the beginning of Weed & Seed...from that day you can see great success with Nicole and the Manchester Police Department, all departments. But, I think we're forgetting the most important part of the Weed & Seed Program and it seems that without money you don't get anything done. I'd like to take a moment here and thank the U. S. Attorney Tom Colantuono for his efforts here in the Queen City...Weed & Seed, Clean Sweepers and many, many other things. Without his leadership maybe we wouldn't be talking about the success of these programs. Thank you very much, your Honor.

Alderman O'Neil stated I'd like to thank Nicole for her efforts and anytime you can pull together not only the various City agencies some city, some state, some federal and all the non-profits and make it successful that's truly a job well-done. So, congratulations for that. I too would like to echo Alderman Pinard's comments about thanking the U. S. Attorney for his efforts not only with this initiative but other initiatives we've had in the City. So, Tom,

thank you very much. Question for Nicole or any other panelist up front...if the program is to expand...Alderman Thibault has mentioned west Manchester there may be pockets on the east side...push a little north, push a little east, push a little south that it needs to happen will that require more money for the nine months or 39 weeks than the \$175,000...can it be done for that amount of money?

Lt. Reilly stated if I may answer that...no. It would not require any more money. What we're trying to present here is a philosophy which does require funding to promote it. Historically for the last five years the boundaries of the Weed & Seed site on the east side were locked by the federal government, by the program...we have to abide by the rules of the grant. As you can see on the map we've expanded it to the west side, however, this is our program, we are proposing that we own this program. We will not be held to the federal government through these boundaries specifically. When we rolled out a prostitute detail I asked the supervisors you must operate within the Weed & Seed site...those are the rules of the grant, we don't want to violate the conditions of the grant because that's what the federal government says. If there were a prostitution problem on the west side we would be able to address it but we would not be able to use Weed & Seed funds to do that and again we're promoting a philosophy to the west side but the important thing to remember is it's our own philosophy and we can make the boundaries anywhere we want and if there's a specific issue in the south end that ventures beyond the boundaries set forth in the map that's okay it's our program. So, if there's a unique community issue in the City we can address it. We won't be held to those boundaries as we were for the last five years. That's the focus area of crime but we can certainly venture outside that area.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't know if there's a more successful program in the City of Manchester and I hope not only do you give this full consideration, your Honor, but I hope the entire Board does during the budget process. This is a very important project and program and strategy for the citizens of our City and that's probably the most important part of this...they take real ownership in this...it's their program, it's not any of you sitting here, it's the resident's program and I think that's very important.

Alderman Gatsas stated there's no question that the Weed & Seed Program is a great program. I guess my question is if we look at that map I assume the federal government guidelines are within the green boundaries so would it be inappropriate to continue to look for federal funds to stay within the green boundaries and look to the City to extend it to whatever boundaries we want beyond the green because I would think we would want to continue taking federal dollars for a program that's in progress and to just expand it with local dollars into the programs that we're looking to say are different guidelines. Does that have a possibility?

Ms. Rodler replied the answer unfortunately on the federal perspective of Weed & Seed is that you are providing five years of funding and no more than five years of funding and one million dollars in the hopes that you have established a long-term plan for sustainability to maintain that target area's strategy. When we looked at expanding we were actually looking at expanding with Weed & Seed dollars. You have to have a new site designated, you can have two boundaries that are from the original site but you are not allowed to ask for more funding for that continued site...if that's making sense. So, when we looked at the west side creating a Weed & Seed site perhaps containing two of the boundaries looking perhaps across the river into the Millyard on those two boundaries we looked at the statistics and what the requirements were for that application and unfortunately it's not an answer to the residents of those dealing with the issues dealing on the west side but the reality was that we did not have the crime nor the unmet need that provided that argument for that application. They looked when they were putting out the requirements for the past Weed & Seed application...the top 300 high crime cities in the country were looked at of which they were pulling from the top 100 and unfortunately Manchester doesn't rank in the top 300. So, that's what our challenge was when we looked at the Weed & Seed funding from the Department of Justice. So, federal dollars would be available in other formats that we could look at being that we are a graduated Weed & Seed site but we cannot tap into the Weed & Seed dollars again.

Alderman Gatsas stated so what you're saying is the pin boundaries that you have right now don't qualify because of the crime not being at the level as the green.

Ms. Rodler stated correct.

Alderman Gatsas stated but you are looking for other federal funds because I understand that there are two programs coming down from the federal side that are in excess of the dollars that they had for the five-year Weed & Seed Program.

Ms. Rodler stated there are other federal dollars that we're able to look at.

Alderman Gatsas stated far in excess of the million dollars that we might be qualified for.

Ms. Rodler stated yes.

Alderman Gatsas stated so you're continuing to look for that so we should have those numbers and an idea of what those funds are because maybe the \$175,000 only needs to be \$75,000 where you may be getting more federal dollars. A follow-up to where Alderman...if I may, your Honor...where Alderman Roy was. I didn't pull the strings for the Neighborhood Watch at Smyth Road School where there were 70 people or 60 people I just volunteered to pay the \$8.80 for that to happen but I would think that this Board should send a very strong message to the School District because those schools falls within the parameters of the Neighborhood Watches that people are paying attention to. So, I would think that for a police officer and the local taxpayers that are within that neighborhood that that would be waived...the \$8.80...the School District would find it in their opportunity to waive those fees, your Honor and I think that maybe being the Chairman of that Board maybe you could bring the message from this Board.

Mayor Guinta stated I'll certainly bring several messages to the School Board. Was that the total bill?

Alderman Gatsas replied all I was told was it was \$8.80.

Mayor Guinta stated they were charging me a lot more for my town meetings.

Alderman Gatsas stated I can only tell you that's what I was told. Now, maybe it was \$880.00...I don't know but I only heard \$8.80 per hour for the lights.

Ms. Rodler stated we were able to have the meeting so you paid what they needed.

Mayor Guinta stated I will properly convey that message.

Alderman Shea stated seeing that we have two State Senators here and one of the west side and we've been talking about federal aid maybe we could have some state aid coming down...I'm not sure about that but we do have two legislators here as well. So, we've got a lot of power on this Board as it were at the state level. My comment is that I simply can't say enough of appreciation for the work in Ward 7. I know that Sgt. Kincaid worked specifically on a graffiti problem which was located on Maple and Beech and Somerville and Shasta Streets and Alderman O'Neil was part of that process and we went over and it was just a devastating area there and through their efforts managed to clean that area up. I know that Mr. Tremblay at the time who owns a business on Maple Street was involved as well and the Parks and Recreation Department so certainly that was very helpful for Ward 7 residents in that particular area so I do appreciate that and I do appreciate all the help that they've given in different troubled area in Ward 7 and I'd be remiss if I didn't also complete Tom Colantuono for his fine work and the meeting we had at Central High School when it was first inaugurated five years ago and the people that he brought forth that were obviously part of that process. So, thank you very much, Tom.

Alderman Forest stated I'd like to thank Tom also for a job well done and just want to let everybody know that he is a Ward 12 resident.

Mayor Guinta stated a couple of points and then we'll let you go. Back in August when we had our special crime meeting I think many of you remember that we had talked about expanding and the list of ten suggestions we provided to...at least ten and I think Alderman

Roy and some other Aldermen added some additional suggestions. One of those suggestions was to expand the geographic location...I had met and spoken earlier in the year Senator Gregg and U. S. Attorney Colantuono about future potential grants and funding opportunities for that...that's still under exploration but this Board I think has been very, very unified in making a serious commitment to public safety. I don't see why that would change. So, I very much look forward to seeing this role in our City expanded because it is a good program. I want to thank Nicole for being here and Lt. Reilly and Anna Thomas and also in particular our U. S. Attorney...he's not helping by the way just on Weed & Seed there's the Gang Interdiction money, there's the High Intensity/High Visibility money that he brought to the City earlier in the year, there's also the Drug Task Force and Enforcement money and he works very cooperatively with Senator Gregg to provide some of those unique funds particularly to New Hampshire and Manchester. So, it should not go unnoticed that he's doing on behalf of the City. So, I thank you and thank you all for being here.

Alderman O'Neil asked may I ask one more question that I failed to ask earlier.

Mayor Guinta replied surely.

Alderman O'Neil stated this would be for Anna. I have to believe there's a public health role in this but I'm not sure I understand what that is and there was a lot of talk about quality of life and ones health is very much part of that. So, can you just briefly touch on what are some of the health issues we run into in the Weed & Seed Program?

Ms. Anna Thomas replied it's interesting that you have a local Health Department that's providing program management. What's interesting about it is we're sort of a neutral body in the mix if you can think of it in that way our general mission is to improve the health and quality of life of residents and we don't really have a direct benefit from the funding...maybe a police department would or other non-profit so it does create a unique opportunity for us to sit at the table and we can kind of help facilitate a process and provide some infrastructure where it's needed but there also are all these other indirect benefits that Nicole sort of talked a little bit about as far as health. One of the things that we did to

establish in Weed & Seed and I was one of the people that was involved in filing for the application along with Marty Boisvert at the Police Department when he was on-board was looking at various quality of life issues and health indicators because that was a requirement of the grant. So, there were issues like untreated dental decay, adolescent pregnancy, asthma, other areas of...demographic trends like increasing poverty and uninsured and all those things that ultimately translate to health status. All of those things were required to help justify the need. So, we're really able to dissect the City by neighborhood and provide that to the federal government and it's also something that we had to try and look at for the west side as well. So, we're always looking at those measures and that's part of the recommendation is that we are continuing to look at those things to benchmark to see if we're seeing change across the board and that's not just in the crime stats.

Mayor Guinta stated thank you very much for your presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Guinta advised is you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, one motion only will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

Approve under supervision of the Department of Highways

- A. PSNH Pole Petition #11-1127 located on Bryant Road;
PSNH Pole Petition #11-1128 located on Pine Street; and
PSNH Pole Petition #11-1129 located on Somerville Street.

Informational – to be Received and Filed

- B. Communication from Leo Bernier, City Clerk, advising that the Manchester City Archives has been awarded a grant of \$8,141 to restore eight (8) volumes of births, marriages and deaths.
- C. Manchester Health Department monthly report summary for November 2006.
- D. Communication from Comcast advising of the 3rd quarter of 2006 franchise fee payment in the amount of \$317,582.58.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

- E.** Advising that it has accepted the City's Monthly Financial Statements (unaudited) for the four months ended October 31, 2006 for FY2007 and is forwarding same to the Board for informational purposes.
(Unanimous except for Alderman Thibault who was absent.)
- F.** Advising that it has accepted the following Finance Department reports:
- a) department legend;
 - b) open invoice report over 90 days by fund;
 - c) open invoice report all invoices for interdepartmental billings only;
 - d) open invoice report all invoices due from the School Department only;
 - e) listing of invoices submitted to City Solicitor for legal determination; and
 - f) accounts receivable summary.
- (Unanimous except for Alderman Thibault who was absent.)*
- G.** Advising that it has accepted a summary of CIP project balances as of September 30, 2006 and is forwarding same to the Board for informational purposes.
(Unanimous except for Alderman Thibault who was absent.)
- H.** Recommending that the 1st quarter FY2007 write off list for the accounts receivable module be approved as amended in Committee by adjusting the Fire Department total downward by \$1,640.
(Unanimous except for Alderman Thibault who was absent.)
- I.** Advising that it has accepted the current audit report submitted by the Independent City Auditor as enclosed herein.
(Unanimous except for Alderman Thibault who was absent.)

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SERVICES

- J.** Recommending that a request from Peter Ramsey of The Palace Theatre to hang a banner across Hanover Street from November 20th to December 23rd be granted and approved under the direct supervision of the Highway, Risk and Traffic Departments.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

- K.** Recommending that Ordinances:
- “Amending Section 33.047 (Probationary Period) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”
- “Amending Section 33.048 (Advancements Within Pay Range) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”
- ought to pass.
(Unanimous except for Alderman Duval who was absent.)
- L.** Recommending that Ordinance:
- “Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by establishing the Manchester Landfill Groundwater Management Zone (ML-GMZ) Overlay district to monitor groundwater quality in the vicinity of Dunbarton Road and Front Street.”
- ought to pass.
(Unanimous except for Alderman Duval who was absent.)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC

- N.** Advising that it has approved a request of the Library to bag two meters on Amherst Street as temporary handicap parking during the construction period of renovations to the handicap accessible entrance.
(Unanimous vote)
- O.** Recommending that a request from Intown Manchester to allow free parking downtown on Thursday evenings throughout December be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- P.** Recommending that a request from Marcel's Way for the use of Arms Park on Saturday, April 14, 2007 from 10 AM until 4 PM with a rain date of Sunday, April 15, 2007 for a walkathon and festivities to benefit their cause for Mitochondrial Disorders be granted and approved, under the direct supervision of the City Clerk, Parks, Police, Risk and Traffic Departments.
(Unanimous vote)
- Q.** Recommending that the Board approve a standard crosswalk design for added visibility to be marked with white diagonal lines at a 45-degree angle to the line of the crosswalk.
(Unanimous vote)
- R.** Recommending that regulations governing standing, stopping, parking and operations of vehicles be adopted and put into effect when duly advertised and posted.
(Unanimous vote)

HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF ALDERMEN

**GARRITY, DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN SHEA, IT WAS VOTED THAT
THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

Report of the Committee on Bills on Second Reading

- M.** Recommending that Ordinance:
“Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding sections and changing language to 70.06, 70.48 and 70.78 providing for Pay and Display Meters, Procedures, Enforcement and Penalties.”
ought to pass and layover as previously amended by the Board and contained herein.
(Unanimous except for Alderman Duval who was absent.)

Mayor Guinta stated I pulled it off because I know that there's been additional concern and there might be some questions for City staff about the implementation of the new parking meters in the City. I've talked to some Aldermen...I want to make sure and reiterate that I believe it is important to make sure that the proper communication is provided to this Board so if there are any particular issues relating to this issue that anyone wants to talk about I'd be happy to entertain them at this moment.

Alderman DeVries stated I received an e-mail and I don't know if the rest of the Board received the same e-mail but an individual that was concerned when he rides his motorcycle and parks downtown as he does during the course of employment through fair weather...how is he going to be able to secure his ticket on a motorcycle...there's not glass to keep it secure. Obviously, if he pays the adhesive backed ticket can then be removed and placed onto somebody else's vehicle so that's something that certainly needs to be brought up and I'm sure somebody with a soft top jeep would have similar concerns...not every vehicle is being locked up behind closed walls. So, that's one of many and I understand there is going to be a meeting to try to work out some of the many kinks in the program.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't need to dwell on my disappointment with how this whole process went but I guess the question I throw out and I don't know who the appropriate person is to answer it is do we have to install all 100 over this next weekend? Have we committed to every parking meter as coming out, has been sold and that whether we've worked out all the bugs with these particular kiosk units or not they're going in to replace it?

Mayor Guinta replied I know the 634 I believe that are being removed they have all been spoken for by people in the City of Manchester and I believe there's a waiting list of about 400 who would like to purchase them. As I understand it the 93 meters that have been purchased are all scheduled to be installed I think by December 4th so that is where that stands at the moment.

Alderman O'Neil stated so it is 93 kiosks to replace six hundred and something.

Mayor Guinta stated 634 I believe is the number.

Alderman O'Neil stated the only thing I'd ask for moving forward is before anything else changes in this whole parking. We've had two different committees that worked on this for a long time...Alderman Osborne's Public Safety and Traffic Committee and the Administration Committee. Direction definitely wasn't followed as far as I'm concerned.

We need to make sure that staff does not go out and do what they believe the intent was. They need to come back and we need to walk through all of these issues. Last week I was pretty mad about this and I thought somebody should have been fired over it that's how mad I was about it. When we implement significant change like this we need to do it right and I don't believe we handled this as City government correctly. Thank you, your Honor.

Mayor Guinta stated one of the things that I will propose and direct staff to do is provide monthly updates to this Board and to an appropriate committee on a monthly basis at least for the first six months of implementation so that not just the committee but every Board member is properly informed. Beyond on that if a committee member of this Board needs additional day-to-day information I'm sure that Brandy or at least in the interim as his position as the Interim Director of Economic Development, Bob MacKenzie or anyone in my office will be certainly made available to the Aldermen individually.

Alderman Gatsas stated I guess the question I have is one if there is a waiting list we didn't sell them for enough money...if supply and demand is such that we probably should have gotten more money and I guess my second question is why does the implementation have to be on Elm Street, why couldn't we start the implementation in some of the parking lots that we have that have meters. For instance, the one that's kiddy corner to City Hall...the Middle Street Lot where we could find out if the snow situation is such that's going to cause a problem...we've got more meters down in the Bedford Lot area down there. I think that that kind of implementation would make more sense to see if it's working in an area where the traffic is a constant turnaround and people aren't walking 144 feet. I don't know if that's possible but when I hear we're moving lines and people will park closer together and we'll get an increase in the number of people parking maybe that's just fine in warm weather locations but I think once the snow starts flying in Manchester and the snowbanks start building...it's bad enough now that you might lose a couple of parking spaces as it I would think that maybe the implementation would start at some of the lots that we have that have meters in them.

Mayor Guinta stated I'm not sure of the particular answer to your question I might defer to either Bob or Randy...is the appropriate answer that it was the recommendation of the Parking Study to start in a particular area.

Mr. Randy Sherman, Interim Finance Officer, stated my understanding is that Brandy actually walked the downtown area with the pay station provider and they optimized the locations of the implementation. My personal thought would have been we would have hit around Verizon but I talked to Brandy about that and she said no they talked to Tim, they've talked to downtown merchants and for the dollars that she had to operate with these were the best locations. Now, I think Brandy can probably expand on that but I think that they did decide that those were the better locations rather than going into the parking lots.

Alderman Gatsas stated I would think that in the delicate situation that we are in with these meters without understanding...someone needs to tell me one is there a cold weather community that has these in as cold as Manchester and...I'm seeing nodding...maybe she needs to come up here so we can direct the questions directly to her. I guess my question is Alderman Duval told me they were installing them...have they started installing them?

Mr. Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, replied they have not started installing them.

Alderman Gatsas stated so if this Board decides that they want to try an implementation somewhere else to make sure it's feasible and make sense for the City we have an opportunity to do that.

Ms. Stanley stated we wouldn't be able to do it immediately. What we would need to do would be to spend some extra time to install the meter bases. All the meter bases are already installed so we can't install the meters where there aren't any bases unless we went back and installed the new bases.

Alderman O'Neil stated I wanted to follow-up on a comment Alderman Gatsas made if I may.

Mayor Guinta asked do you object Alderman Roy?

Alderman Roy replied no.

Alderman O'Neil stated I didn't mean to get my fire going here a little bit again but when Brandy came on board this was a foregone conclusion. Somebody had decided we were ordering a hundred of these things and 93 of them were being placed somewhere, so we shouldn't be saying that Brandy...you got here about October 15th or something...the order was placed a week later. There was already a determination on where these things were going so let's not pass this off to Brandy. This was a done deal a long time ago and that's what gets me going. It's was a done deal a long time ago...well before Brandy came on board working for the City.

Alderman Gatsas stated there was intention of passing on anything to Brandy because I understood she was here only a week when it came upon her but I would think that this Board at this point would take a step back and take a look of what the process that we're doing. Now, just because a vendor is telling us put it here there's no reason why we can't try the Middle Street Lot with the additional seven that we have to see if it makes sense.

Ms. Stanley stated that is exactly what the seven are reserved for are the parking lots. The reason we opted not to put them in immediately was because the methodology with which those parking lots are operated probably needs to change and that change needs to be agreed upon by the Traffic Committee and the full Board before removal and putting the meters in. Right now, those lots are being operated as if they're on-street parking and they're really not on-street parking...they're parking lots and the method of operation should be different from one to the other so we wanted to address that before we put in the pay and display meters on those parking lots. But, that's what those extra seven meters are for.

Alderman Gatsas stated so we're not putting any of these around the Verizon center.

Ms. Stanley stated no. We decided not to put them around the Verizon Center because there are a number of issues. Number one is the Verizon Center bags a lot of the meters on Chestnut Street and meter bags...obviously when you have one meter on a block meter bags become problematic in terms of figuring out who's supposed to be parking there and who isn't. We can turn the meter off but that's not going to stop people from parking there because there's no meter head to put a bag on...that was one of the issues. The other issue was that when the Verizon Center has events typically people tend to come all at once and operationally we needed to work out possible issues with queuing at the machines I didn't want to have 16 people trying to pay the machine all at once because they all showed up at the same time for an event. So, that's really why we decided not to do the Verizon area.

Alderman Gatsas stated the bagged meters at the Verizon Center...who bags those and are we paid for them?

Ms. Stanley replied the meters are bagged by the Verizon Arena and honestly I don't know whether or not we get paid for them...maybe Randy or Denise knows the answer.

Alderman O'Neil stated if I may, your Honor, I think aren't they all for handicapped parking...they're bagged for handicapped parking. They're not the other bags that the construction companies use. It was to create additional handicapped parking spaces in the vicinity of the arena...that was approved by the Board a few years ago I believe.

Alderman Roy stated I just wanted to clarify a couple of things. Brandy you've said that the meters are not installed but the bases have already been installed so we're already into this process.

Ms. Stanley stated very much so.

Alderman Roy asked how many bases have been installed?

Ms. Stanley replied 93.

Alderman Roy stated and they're all in the areas you predetermined that you showed us with the display.

Ms. Stanley stated yes.

Alderman Roy stated I appreciate that and just from a construction standpoint I want people to know that just because the meters aren't sitting there yet doesn't mean a lot of man hours haven't gone into getting this accomplished.

Ms. Stanley stated that's correct.

Alderman Roy stated the question I have leads to the sales of the meter heads that we have. Could you go through that process...how was that handled, how was the list created, how was the number determined right from the beginning to end?

Ms. Stanley stated a lot of cities that have put these multi-space meters in have sold their meters...most for \$10 a meter and some for \$15 a meter. We really had no idea that the demand was going to be what it was. This turns out to be completely unprecedented. I talked to the meter head manufacturer and they've said they've never heard of anything like this happening before. Alderman Lopez called me before they went on sale and said we should be charging more and my professional opinion which was wrong at that point basically told me that 415 was probably the most we were going to get and we probably weren't going to sell them all. We looked on E-Bay, we didn't find any meters on E-Bay for more than \$15. So, we figured that that was the right price to charge and after we issued the press release earlier this week or last week to *The Union Leader* the next day our phones just rang off the hook. We took all the messages and the phone calls in order, created the list in order...anybody that made a reservation afterwards was put on the waiting list in order. So, we didn't skip anyone or anything like that. So, yes, in retrospect I wish we had charged more but unfortunately we didn't.

Alderman Roy asked how many meters are being sold?

Ms. Stanley replied all 634.

Alderman Roy stated so it's 634 x 15 is the revenue from this...nine thousand plus. The waiting list is just there if people don't come in and pay you'll monitor that.

Ms. Stanley stated yes and also when we do put the Pay and Display units in surface lots will be taking more off the street and we'll just go down the waiting list at that point and offer them to anybody that still wants them.

Alderman Long stated just a clarification, Brandy. You were the one that picked the sites where these kiosks were going?

Ms. Stanley replied we did it in conjunction with the manufacturer. After the contract was signed they made an appointment to come up and we walked the City.

Alderman Long stated the other questions I have, your Honor...what is the effect on hesitating on this with our financial commitment with respect to the bids, with respect to responsibility of the vendor where does that change or how does that change...if it does change does it increase costs if we sit back for six months and just set up a test/pilot part?

Mr. MacKenzie stated I will respond to that because I did ask Brandy to run some numbers on what would happen if basically we stopped the program temporarily. The cost if we didn't implement it for six months would be \$363,000 to the City and if you delay it somewhere in between that there will be costs both contractor costs and costs of the meters.

Alderman Long stated Alderman DeVries had a good point with respect to motorcycles. My personal opinion, Brandy, is that you're the expert in this and I trust your judgment. I've spoken with you several times and I have confidence in you. Is there an answer for

Alderman DeVries...someone has a topless jeep or a convertible what stops somebody from grabbing their ticket and how do you know it's their besides if it wasn't a credit card user?

Ms. Stanley replied there is an answer actually and we did some research because I ride a motorcycle although I don't own one right now but I do ride a motorcycle and I do know that that's definitely an issue. What we put in our "Frequently Asked Questions" brochure was that if you do ride a motorcycle you still have to pay the meter and you put the receipt between the console and the windshield of your motorcycle and yes you run the risk of having it taken off your vehicle and if you do pay with cash and that happens we probably won't be able to track your transaction and void any ticket that you might have received...that being said we did a lot of research with a lot of the other cities and Portland in particular that was a question that they had issues with because Portland has a very large percentage of motorcycle ridership and they said that they had very little and next to no issues with receipts being stolen off the motorcycles. So, I don't anticipate that being an issue here. If it is an issue we've already tried to encourage motorcycle riders to use credit cards because that enables us to void the ticket and track the individual transaction. If there's a significant number of issues with cash paying motorcycles that have the tickets stolen that's something that we will need to revisit but I don't anticipate us having to look at that until the spring obviously because of the weather.

Alderman Long stated with respect to the snowbanks you have to climb over snowbanks now to feed the meter...the reason why the snowbanks are there partially is because the meters are there so it's a shovel move instead of...with a kiosk there and no meters it's an easier sweep. You don't need to take out a shovel because the meters are in your way for shoveling. So, with respect to the snowbanks yes it's going to cause...yes you do have to...currently, right now with the snowbanks you have to walk around the snowbanks to put your money in the meter now. So, I don't see it as an issue.

Alderman Forest stated I just want to go back to Alderman O'Neil and the question about the bags on the meters on Chestnut Street...when former Alderman Sysyn was Chairman and that was a couple of years ago the management of Verizon came to the Traffic Committee

about not enough handicapped spots and we on the Traffic Committee voted...Chestnut Street from Lake Avenue to Cedar Street...but, the bags are kept at the Traffic Department and the Police Department are the ones that control the bags not Verizon...that was one of the conditions. I just wanted to inform the Board on that.

Alderman Smith stated from November 14th we do have a contract...as you well know I was against it from day one but I did bring it to the attention of the Traffic Department as well as the Planning Board early on Monday morning when I picked up the *The Boston Globe* and almost fell over and I'd like to address the credit card situation right now. What is supposed to be a Smart Meter but I don't know it's that smart.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I will respond to that. Boston obviously was a highline city that got involved in that. It is common practice in most cities that have these to have a minimum charge of a dollar. Boston came out and perhaps was one of the only cities to charge a minimum of two dollars and so that did raise issues with the credit card companies and therefore put into question what is common practice in most cities. So, certainly, we're aware of that issue and are going to respond to that.

Alderman Smith stated we're going one dollar for one hour is that the minimum now with credit cards.

Mr. MacKenzie stated no. One dollar would get you two hours.

Alderman Smith stated but Boston was two dollars.

Mr. MacKenzie stated we had proposed a one-dollar minimum.

Alderman Smith stated you're going to follow this up with the credit card.

Mr. MacKenzie stated we're going to review that matter again and perhaps speak with the City Solicitor. I know that the manufacturer of these is opening dialogue with the credit card

companies to show why these things happen. Obviously, there's a lot of cities that have the minimum and that's because there's a per charge cost for each transaction but it is possible we could go to no minimum if it was very clear that the law stated or the credit card agreements stated that you could not have a minimum.

Alderman Smith stated that's my point. In other words I don't want the City getting any additional costs because of the minimum. Thank you.

Alderman Osborne stated Brandy you remember me coming out with we should have started with a pilot program right from the beginning in my committee but that's water over the dam right now. My question is when you were talking about the motorcycles and the ticket on the motorcycles...how about vehicles that are parked there in the summertime and they have their window open and have it blow in the backseat somewhere what kind of an address did they take for that particular situation?

Ms. Stanley replied that's one of the drawbacks of this particular system because it doesn't have the sticker on it. What we would probably look at is the parking control officers already know that this is going to be additional work for them in terms of locating receipts and if there is a convertible or something like that they will make a reasonable effort to locate it but really the obligation rests on the driver of the convertible to make sure that their receipt is not going to fly off.

Alderman Lopez stated we have to move forward with this the bases are in. I think we're just hashing something...as Mr. MacKenzie said it's \$363,000 if we stop the program so I think that we can move forward and see what problems we have as we move the program along and as long as the Committees on Administration and Traffic are involved in the process I think we won't have any more of these mix-ups.

Alderman Gatsas stated I'm still waiting for a copy of the contract.

Ms. Stanley stated I brought it with me and I'll make a copy for you before I leave.

Alderman Gatsas stated again Mr. MacKenzie you're telling me that the company is looking or is having conversations with the credit card companies. Now, that cost is \$.18 per transaction and if the credit card company says you can go to \$.50 the cost is going to start becoming prohibitive.

Mr. MacKenzie stated yes and I'll turn that over to Brandy in just a second. But, again, these are programs that have proved profitable for cities. I think if you monitor these on a monthly basis you will see increases in revenues so there may be some costs particularly on very small card transactions if there is no minimum. But, overall it will improve and provide additional revenues to the City. Brandy, did you have any comments?

Alderman Gatsas stated the \$.18 per transaction from Mr. Sherman would be 18% on a dollar. If they allow you \$.50 or if the credit card companies tell you it's only \$.50 it's 36% on the dollar. So, that \$333,000 you were talking about could get evaporated quick because 40% of the transaction, if I remember correctly, Brandy you said were credit cards.

Ms. Stanley stated after the last meeting I went back and did a little bit of research. First of all, the 33% increase in revenue that we quoted you and I didn't want to say anything at the last meeting because I wanted to make sure I was correct...based on our research with some other cities that's net of credit card charges. So, if you don't count your credit card charges the actual revenue increases is going to be much higher than 33%. If we do end up taking the minimum off I think that the revenue...depending on if somebody puts in a credit card and wants to do a \$.50 transaction and we question whether anybody wants to put \$.50 on their credit card as opposed to \$1.00 that revenue figure may drop a little bit but honestly I don't think it's going to drop very much.

Alderman Garrity asked your Honor can we move the question.

Mayor Guinta stated moved by Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Duval to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee on Bills on Second Reading.

Alderman O'Neil stated with all due respect to my colleague from Ward 9 if we had these discussions six months ago we wouldn't be taking it up today.

Mayor Guinta called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Aldermen Gatsas, DeVries and O'Neil duly recorded in opposition.

5. Communication from Diane Prew, Information Services Director, submitting her retirement effective December 29, 2006.

Alderman Forest moved to accept Ms. Prew's retirement with regrets. Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Guinta stated I did have an opportunity to meet with Diane and she's worked tirelessly for the City for a little more than 27 years. I believe starting the department if I'm not mistaken. So, she's certainly provided a wonderful service to the City over a long period of time. We certainly would anticipate a good replacement. Information Systems, I think, is one of the more important positions in the City. If you look at some of the changes that have been made just in the last ten years in terms of the level of communication inside City government it's amazing what ten years ago what you could not connect with and now who you can. So, we certainly as a City owe a debt of gratitude and the motion is to accept her resignation with regret.

Alderman O'Neil stated remind Diane that she did agree that if we need some help now and again she is available.

Mayor Guinta stated if I read it correctly I stand ready to serve is that what the last line of your letter said...so, we'll be taking it...don't go to Florida too often.

There being none opposed, the motion carried.

6. Communication from Victoria Chapman submitting her resignation as a member of the Senior Services Commission.

Mayor Guinta stated she's taken a new job that precludes her from continuing to serve.

Alderman Thibault moved to accept Ms. Chapman's resignation with regrets. Alderman Garrity duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

7. No nominations were presented by Mayor Guinta.

8. State Legislative update presented by Mayor Guinta.

Mayor Guinta stated I do have a brief State Legislative update. I did yesterday morning have an opportunity to meet with members of the House delegation...many new faces and new members including two of our Aldermen...Representative-Elect Long and Representative-Elect Forest who were both in attendance. We talked a little bit after the group got to know each other a little bit about the process that we should encounter regarding communication between my office, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and our Legislative team.

Representative Baroody suggested a plan that I certainly support and I think makes a lot of sense. Two points...number one...his effort is going to be trying to have a State Representative on each of at least the more significant committees up in Concord so there's proper representation of the City and also proper communication between what's going on on some of the legislative initiatives within the committees and also secondly to have one representative from each of those committees meet with me on a weekly basis whether it's here in the City or up in Concord. I think it's a good idea. It's seemed that the members after talking with Representative Baroody that they would concur with that...would also give the members an opportunity to talk with our City staff on particular items of concern or interest and then we'll obviously...I think it was very successful the level of communication that we had with Craig Smith to the Board and we're going to continue with those reports to this Board. I believe, alderman Long, that you had asked if we could also communicate those reports to all the Legislators which we agreed to do through e-mail as well so everybody is clearly informed both here and all the representatives of the issues that are being tracked.

9. Ordinances:

“Amending Section 33.047 (Probationary Period) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.048 (Advancements Within Pay Range) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by establishing the Manchester Landfill Groundwater Management Zone (ML-GMZ) Overlay district to monitor groundwater quality in the vicinity of Dunbarton Road and Front Street.”

“Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by establishing the Lake Massabesic Protection Overlay District (LMPOD) to protect the Lake Massabesic drinking water supply in the City of Manchester.”

“Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding sections and changing language to 70.06, 70.48 and 70.78 providing for Pay and Display Meters, Procedures, Enforcement and Penalties.”

On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to dispense with the reading by titles only.

Alderman Thibault moved that the Ordinances pass and be Enrolled. Alderman Long duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Aldermen Gatsas, DeVries and O’Neil duly recorded in opposition to the fifth ordinance listed.

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to recess the regular meeting to allow the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration to meet.

Mayor Guinta called the meeting back to order.

A report of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration was presented advising that Ordinances:

“Amending Section 33.047 (Probationary Period) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.048 (Advancements Within Pay Range) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by establishing the Manchester Landfill Groundwater Management Zone (ML-GMZ) Overlay district to monitor groundwater quality in the vicinity of Dunbarton Road and Front Street.”

“Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by establishing the Lake Massabesic Protection Overlay District (LMPOD) to protect the Lake Massabesic drinking water supply in the City of Manchester.”

“Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding sections and changing language to 70.06, 70.48 and 70.78 providing for Pay and Display Meters, Procedures, Enforcement and Penalties.”

are properly enrolled.

Alderman Duval moved to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Aldermen Gatsas, DeVries, Smith and O’Neil duly recorded in opposition to the fifth ordinance listed.

- 13.** Communication from Joan Porter, Tax Collector, requesting authorization to allow prepayment of property taxes pursuant to RSA 80:52-a.

Alderman O’Neil moved to authorize prepayment of property taxes pursuant to RSA 80:52-a as requested by the Tax Collector. Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O’Neil asked hasn’t this already been acceptable. I spoke to Ms. Porter earlier today. I thought this was already acceptable but she indicated that it wasn’t clear. I guess State law allows it but we need to pass something locally. Joan, on the City side we had never taken action on this.

Ms. Joan Porter, Tax Collector, stated we can’t find any action on it so we decided that we would just go ahead and make it formal because people have leftover payments on their accounts and said leave it there for next year, prepayment for next year. So, we decided that in order to make it clear we would see if we could get action on it because we can’t find that in our records.

Alderman O’Neil stated did I understand you correctly that if somebody prepays but wants their money back before the time taxes are due they get it back but there’s no interest on it.

Ms. Porter stated right. An actual prepayment is allowed for up to two years of taxes if someone wanted to that and for IRS purposes sometimes people do want to do that. But, if they request the money back they don’t get any interest on the money back and they’re just going to get back whatever they paid.

Alderman O'Neil asked is this an ordinance we have to pass?

Mayor Guinta replied I don't believe it's an ordinance. I believe it's an RSA requirement.

City Solicitor Clark stated it just takes an action of the Board to adopt the statute.

Alderman O'Neil stated so question for Tom...by doing that just a vote, affirmative vote tonight.

City Solicitor Clark stated all you need to do is take an affirmative vote of the Board.

Mayor Guinta called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- 14.** Communication from Randy Sherman, Interim Finance Officer, requesting that approximately \$50,000.00 be set aside in Contingency due to the severance payout to the former Finance Officer.

Alderman Roy moved for discussion. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Roy stated Randy I guess this is going to fall on your shoulders...question regarding the \$50,000...how long would that position have to be vacant for the \$50,000 payout to be absorbed?

Mr. Sherman replied the severance pay was about \$60,000. The \$50,000...we're making back roughly about \$2,000 a week...so about 25 weeks to make up the \$50,000.

Alderman Roy stated we're going to have an Information Systems letter coming in I assume.

Mayor Guinta interjected I can tell you what I've done so far. I haven't made any requests of the Board...what I'm trying to do is try to identify ways to achieve the savings whether it be through the initial department or doing the best we can to manage until we find an appropriate replacement. I can tell you that \$50,000 is one-quarter of the contingency that we have so if you remember in years past contingency was certainly higher...the last two maybe three years we've reduced it so if we set this aside we're taking a quarter of our contingency away. My thought would be let's let it sit for a little bit, see if we can identify particular savings within the department and then determine how long the search is going to

take. It at that point the Aldermen are completed with their search and make a recommendation I think then we can discuss it again as a Board and maybe the dollar amount would certainly be less than the \$50,000 that's being requested.

Alderman O'Neil stated we're going to have a similar issue with Info correct.

Mayor Guinta stated yes...I do not know the exact impact yet.

Alderman O'Neil stated we will not have a similar issue at Economic Development.

Mayor Guinta stated no.

Alderman O'Neil stated I'm trying to think if there are any others out there.

Mayor Guinta stated Health, Fred.

Alderman Lopez stated I think if you had the salary adjustment and money in some departments to save money would move to table at this time to give you an opportunity to work it out. I agree taking it out of contingency at this early stage.

Alderman Duval duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Forest stated this is a benefit of employment.

City Solicitor Clark stated it has been paid...this is the department saying that they may run out of money at the end of the year, but the employee has been paid.

Mayor Guinta called for a vote on the motion to table. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

15. Communication from Randy Sherman, Interim Finance Officer, in response to questions raised by the Board relative to parking revenues generated from the Jac-Pac property.

Alderman Roy moved for discussion. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Roy stated I'm just getting to the page...Randy, what do you have for a balance left on Jac-Pac?

Mr. Sherman stated if you go to the third or second page from Ken Edwards.

Mayor Guinta stated \$216,000 is that the amount.

Mr. Sherman stated right that I believe was through the end of September.

Alderman Roy stated I guess a question for Randy or Tom Clark...what are we allowed to do with that money...are we allowed to bring it back into the City's General Fund?

Mr. Sherman stated the \$216,000 came out of a one-time account so if those dollars aren't used they should go back into the one-time account...that's different than the program income which are the revenues that they're generating from the parking. Those dollars stay at the Housing Authority as program income until this Board decides how those dollars are going to be expended. An example is where we have the AirPark project up by the airport where they sold those lots...they're holding those dollars...we've used those dollars in the past for CIP projects.

Alderman Roy stated maybe I asked my question in the wrong way...so, the net balance is \$216,891...what is the revenue from the parking that could be brought back into the City?

Mr. Sherman replied again in the letter from Ken Edwards, the third paragraph the \$80,750 and of course then they have the October and the November on top of that.

Alderman Roy stated that just keeps accumulating at MHRA Number One, Inc. until this Board takes action.

Mr. Sherman stated correct.

Alderman Smith moved to receive and file. Alderman Garrity duly seconded the motion.

There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- 16.** Communication from Tim Clougherty, Chief Facilities Manager, in response to questions raised by the Board relative to whether HB 248 was explored regarding school funding and reimbursement of costs associated with the School Design Build project.

Alderman Gatsas moved for discussion. Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas stated I guess I wasn't clear with my question of Mr. Clougherty...does that have to do with the ventilation at Goffs Falls...there was a special piece of legislation that allowed for the clean air at Goffs Falls.

Mr. Frank Thomas, Public Works Director, stated it's my understanding after Tim Clougherty looked into the matter is that we are receiving reimbursements for the work under the Design/Building program. The house bill that you referred to basically provided a funding mechanism to address energy saving measures through leasing equipment, lease purchases similar to what we did under the program that was run out of the Finance Department. So, it's a different mechanism to fund energy conservation measures for equipment purchases for leases and what not.

Alderman Gatsas stated I think if you looked closer into that bill you will find that for the circulation air units it was also included in that legislation.

Mr. Thomas stated as noted in Mr. Clougherty's memo in response to you he did talk to the people up in Concord and got the response which was the basis of his response to you. But, we will check into it again.

Alderman Gatsas moved to receive and file. Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

17. Ordinances:

“Amending Section 33.047 (Probationary Period) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.048 (Advancements Within Pay Range) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by establishing the Manchester Landfill Groundwater Management Zone (ML-GMZ) Overlay district to monitor groundwater quality in the vicinity of Dunbarton Road and Front Street.”

“Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by establishing the Lake Massabesic Protection Overlay District (LMPOD) to protect the Lake Massabesic drinking water supply in the City of Manchester.”

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to dispense with the readings by titles only.

These Ordinances having had their third and final reading, Alderman Thibault moved that the Ordinance pass and be Ordained. Alderman Garrity duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas asked may I ask why there are only four of them instead of five?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson replied the last item which is the Pay and Display is actually considered a penalty ordinance so it needs to layover to the next meeting.

Alderman Gatsas stated just checking.

Mayor Guinta called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

TABLED ITEMS

- 18.** Report of the Committee on Bills on Second Reading recommending that Ordinance:
- “Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by extending the B-2 (General Business) zoning district to include property currently zoned IND (Industrial) located on the south side of Gold Street east of the former Lawrence Branch of the B&M Railroad and including the following three lots Tax Map 875-14, 875-15, 875-16.”
- ought to pass.
(Aldermen Duval, Lopez, Garrity and Pinard recorded in favor; Alderman Gatsas opposed.)
(Tabled 09/05/2006)

This item remained tabled.

- 19.** Report of the Committee on Bills on Second Reading recommending that Ordinance:
- “Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by extending the R-3 (Urban Multi-family) zoning district to include property currently zoned R-1B (Single-family) located on a portion of Tax Map 691 Lot 143-1 that will be on the north side of a proposed Gold Street Bypass and adjacent to Bradley Street and the New St. Augustin’s Cemetery.”
- ought to pass.
(Aldermen Duval, Lopez, Garrity and Pinard recorded in favor; Alderman Gatsas opposed.)
(Tabled 09/05/2006)

This item remained tabled.

20. NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Shea stated Leo is going to pass out a paper that I would like the Board members to look at...what I would like to suggest to the Board and to the Mayor as well is the

establishment of a Manchester Crime Prevention Committee. My purpose in proposing the establishment of such a committee would be to examine the causes for increases in serious crime in Manchester and I am recommending that members of the committee include the following:

- a) Manchester Police Chief (Chairman);
- b) a representative of the NH State Police;
- c) a representative of the Sheriff's Department;
- d) a representative of the Manchester Police Commission;
- e) a representative of the DEA (research purposes);
- f) a representative of the FBI (research purposes);
- g) Chairman of the Board of Aldermen;
- h) a representative of the Office of Youth Services;
- i) a representative of the Mayor's office; and
- j) utilization of local colleges for research purposes.

Alderman Shea stated the committee would be in conjunction with the Mayor's action plan for neighborhood improvements and predicated upon the Manchester Refugee Resettlement Advisory Committee report submitted in May 2006. Upon conclusion a report would be submitted to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for their review no later than March 2007. Now, tonight we also had the Weed & Seed and I would incorporate their recommendations into this report. Now, I did speak to the Chief of Police this afternoon and he was in agreement with it and I also have spoke to Deputy Chief Leidemer and he certainly can comment but I believe he feels that it would be an important type of study.

Mayor Guinta stated I don't know if I really need him to come up. I have no objection to the Committee the only thing I would ask is that you could maybe refer it to the Public Safety and Traffic Committee for purposes of contacting the particular law enforcement agencies to ensure that they're willing to participate and I think you could have a report back for the next committee meeting for approval. If we could refer it to committee.

Alderman Shea asked would it be the committee's responsibility to contact these people or would it be...?

Mayor Guinta replied I think they could probably direct the Police Department of that could probably happen with just a directive from me which they are indicating they would do so.

Alderman Shea moved to refer the establishment of the Manchester Crime Prevention Committee to the Committee on Public Safety and Traffic. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil asked who names the representatives?

Alderman Shea replied I would assume the Chief of Police would be in charge of naming the representatives...if he's the Chairman of the committee.

Alderman O'Neil stated it would be good if we had as many people familiar with what goes on in the City of Manchester as possible.

Alderman Shea stated yes I agree with you.

Mayor Guinta called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman DeVries stated another new piece of business and we have a letter to be distributed which will help explain. Following up on comments that had been in the press indicating that individuals throughout the City were having a hard time coping with the tax bills that have come out particularly at the time of Christmas and I had a conversation with David Cornell of the Assessor's office to see what sort of relief we could offer individuals...state law dictates the parameters for abating or putting off the interest accruing. What my first idea was so that we offer relief for several months...state law does not allow that...it does though and if I draw your attention to the second paragraph...allow the Assessor's for good cause shown to abate any interest that's accumulated meaning that elderly people on a fixed income with tax exempt increase substantially and don't have the ability to quickly raise the needed funds would likely satisfy that requirement and could contact the Assessor's for some relief. The reason I'm bringing this up here is it doesn't require action of us other than to make a motion to request the Assessor's to use the most liberal standards in applying this to our taxpayers which they are allowed to do under law and the reason I bring it up is we do need the assistance of the press getting the word out to the general public that unfortunately the responsibility would be on individuals who are feeling that they might partake of the program to contact the Assessor's office. There was no action we as a Board could take where in one fell swoop we could offer relief. So, we are asking for the liberal adoption as allowed by state law of this statute.

Mayor Guinta stated I just have a question of clarification because I had talked to David Cornell about this earlier in the year and I believe that during some of the educational meetings with taxpayers this had been discussed...are you saying that there needs to be a vote to provide that additional discretion to the Assessor's office?

Alderman DeVries replied I think we should just indicate to the Assessor's office that we are asking them by vote to apply it with a liberal interpretation.

Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Thibault stated this being November 28th I noticed that we have a meeting scheduled for December 5th and one for December 19th...isn't that a little excessive. It would seem to me that if we have one meeting on the 12th...

Mayor Guinta stated I think at an earlier meeting...I want to say it was in October we had talked about because of the marathon session that went past 1AM back in July there was a suggestion by many Board members to continue with two meetings in November and December. I can tell you that I think we'll get out of here earlier than usual and I know we do have an agenda already being prepared for December 5th so unless there's objection I think we probably should move forward with having the meetings in December.

Alderman Thibault stated you have one on the 5th and one on the 19th I would think that on the 12th would be plenty...let it be the pleasure of the Board.

Alderman Lopez stated in reference to the McLane letter that we received I would like to ask a question of Randy Sherman, please. I know that Tom Clark gave us some information in reference to the \$1.4 million that the Retirement System says that we owe from the letter that you sent to them. Are you going to be able to complete that by December or give us some kind of timeframe that you're going to or is this going to end up in legal channels?

Mr. Sherman replied what the Retirement Board did was after receiving the correspondence that I sent to the Board saying that I didn't believe that we owed the \$1.4 million the

Retirement Board went back and spent several months researching. They have provided some additional documentation that the first go around...it has brought to light more questions on the City side and I think what we're asking at this time is to sit down with members of the Retirement Board, their counsel, their actuary and get more clarification. I think certainly if we're going to have the two meetings in December I would think that by the second meeting in December hopefully we can have an answer for the Board.

Alderman Lopez stated I hope we can resolve this because as you are well aware the interest...if we do owe the money the interest on that money is happening out there. The other question I have, your Honor, we received a letter and if Joan Porter can come up here to make sure that there's nothing in reference to the Tax office I want to make sure...could she come up and answer a question, please?

Mayor Guinta replied sure.

Alderman Lopez stated we received a letter here in reference to filling some vacancies and part-time position...are there problems down there in your particular area that Aldermen should be aware of or has that all been squared away?

Ms. Porter replied after I sent the letter the Mayor did last night give approval to fill two of the positions in the office which then resulted in two more vacancies. So, we have a full-time vacancy and a part-time vacancy now. I had asked if we could also fill the part-time position rather than the full-time position because the full-time position comes with benefits and is a lot more money and I thought if we could fill the part-time position now we are saving benefits, we're saving salary and the part-time position is a lot more flexible because we can ask that person to put in extra hours at the beginning or end of the month or if somebody's out sick, somebody's on vacation we'd be able to have that person stay and get paid straight time with no benefits. So, the budget that was passed allowed for me to have all the positions filled except for a part-time position. What I'm asking is to let me leave a full-time position vacant and fill the part-time position because it gives me more flexibility.

Alderman Lopez asked have you saved money in the past...I know that the Mayor indicated that 3% of your total complement...you've reached that goal haven't you?

Ms. Porter replied we've had vacancies since July so right now our fund balance for the end of the year will be about \$30,000.

Alderman Lopez stated if this continues is there a disservice to the people or can you handle it or what's the story if you don't get the part-timer?

Ms. Porter replied obviously we're going to make due with whatever we have because we've been doing it but I can't say that it hasn't been stressful on the staff because it has. They go home exhausted at night...the work is there and the mail is backing up and we're doing everything we can to make the on-line registration work so the Deputy and I are doing it when it needs to be done to make sure that it's successful so that people will still keep using it...we have about five or six hundred people a month using that program and the more we can get people to either mail in their registration or do it on-line the less you need personnel at the counter but until we're able to function with less people we're still going to need people and I'm thinking if we leave the full-time position vacant we can evaluate that position but the part-time position can come in and fill in when we need that help...whenever we have somebody sick or on vacation or we have a crowd...December 13th is the due date for taxes...we're bound to have a crowd then and we'll have people who can put in some extra time.

Alderman Lopez stated your Honor if you'd like to comment on that because it's something you could take a good look at because the taxes are due and personnel down there.

Mayor Guinta stated as Joan said I did authorize a portion of her request but I do, at this point, because of the other concerns that I have with the overall budget I don't know the number off the top of my head but we're showing significant potential shortfalls in the overall salary lines so I'd rather be very, very stringent with filling positions. My hope particularly because there has been in Joan's office a lot of progress made with the changes in how we're collecting revenue particularly with the on-line I'm hoping that we can continue to drive those numbers up so this is only a short-term challenge for the department. Joan has indicated to me that she would prefer the additional staff...I've asked her to wait another 30 days to see how things go and it gives me more time to take a look at the overall

budget concerns that we have. The reality of it is we are going to have to manage this budget very, very carefully to make sure that we don't have expense shortfalls.

Ms. Porter stated this part-time position though is \$7,300 to the end of the year and it's less than \$300 a week.

Alderman Lopez stated you have that money in your budget.

Ms. Porter stated we have the money in our budget it was approved in our budget so it is there and we've been spending that \$7,300...we're still assuming that at the end of the year the salary alone we'll be turning back about \$30,000.

Alderman Roy stated I just have six quick requests that I would like to read for our next meeting. If we could have updates on the following:

- a) payments on Riverfront development;
- b) Jac-Pac, RFP, Income (enclosed);
- c) Granite Street budget/schedule;
- d) Crime Prevention measures including:
 - K-9 (specifically policy on drug dogs)
 - Manpower
 - Special Reserves
 - National Advertising
- e) Net Team results/recommendations; and
- f) status of vacancy savings

Alderman Roy stated I will ask the Clerk to follow-up with department heads.

Alderman Gatsas stated I guess my question to Alderman Roy or maybe the Police Department I was not aware that we had a K-9 that was a drug dog.

Alderman Roy stated we don't that's why I'd like an update.

Alderman Gatsas stated I just wanted to make sure that something didn't happen in the last two months. I guess I see a letter here from the City Solicitor regarding the School Design/Build project that I am going to ask this Board to go into executive session so at least we get information to some level of where at least the newspaper has it because I think that if it's talking about City employees we should have the update to at least where we are and what some of the circumstances are and certainly being notified and not being asked questions Thanksgiving Day at the football game why we didn't know anything about it and

it was in the paper. I would assume that somebody on this Board must know something about it.

Mayor Guinta stated what I'll say about that and this letter's been made public to the media this evening I think the letter speaks for itself. I can tell you that I don't have any additional information on the subject matter than any member of this Board and that's specifically because the Police Department is required to complete an investigation, they're doing that without any involvement from me or my office or the Aldermen. I think that's the appropriate action and when they're completed with the investigation as the letter indicates this Board will then be fully briefed. So, I would advise as much as I think people think there might be additional information out there there's not. I don't have any additional information. I can tell you that the Solicitor doesn't have it and my preference because of some of the points identified in his letters specifically relating to exposures...to potential members of this Board being deposed I think it does make sense to follow those recommendations and wait until the investigation is completed. I believe that the investigation will be completed fairly quickly and at that time we can be provided with information whether publicly or non-public but I can tell you there's no additional information that I have have or members of this Board or the City Solicitor has. I'm not sure where media outlets are getting their information...I have not asked but I can assure you that it's not me, my office or the Solicitor or the Police Department.

Alderman Gatsas stated if they're not getting it from you and not getting it from the Police Department, if they're not getting it from Frank Thomas I guess my question is whether we want to discuss this openly in public or if we want to get into executive session because somebody's telling somebody something and if they are then we should at least as Board members and elected officials in this City should get some idea of what's going on.

Mayor Guinta stated I share your concern about information but I can explicitly state that the City's not providing information and I really don't want to go further than that in comments relating to an on-going investigation. My preference again would be to let the Police Department do their job and then provide us a report at an appropriate time. It appears a though that investigation will be concluded in this calendar year and we'll have a full and complete report provided to us prior to the end of this calendar year coming to a close. I can

understand the concern and frustration and constituents asking Aldermen...I get those same questions but I can tell you what we should all be saying is the truth which is we don't have information, we shouldn't have information at this point because it is an on-going investigation...let the Police Department do their job and as soon as we have answers we as representatives of the people will provide those answers to the questions when we have them.

Alderman Gatsas stated so I guess a follow-up, your Honor, is what you're saying is that no action is going to be taken against any individual until this Board hears all of the information.

Mayor Guinta stated there is no action to be taken until the...

Alderman Gatsas interjected that's not my question...my question is that no action will be taken against any individual until this full Board is apprised of what the situation is.

Mayor Guinta replied that is correct.

Alderman DeVries stated I just wanted to make a quick note that there had at one point been scheduled for tomorrow night, Wednesday night a Ward 8 Aldermanic/Mayoral meeting which is not coming to fruition because of other obligations in your schedule as well as with ours and there were some people that had been notified. I hope the word has carried to everybody that that has been cancelled and hopefully will be rescheduled after the first of the year.

Mayor Guinta stated I believe everyone is aware of that in your ward. The Anti-Crime meeting scheduled at seven o'clock certainly that's an important issue that I think we all need to be at so the Ward 8 meeting will be scheduled hopefully in early January.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk